

WHERE CAN I FIND BOOKS?

Your PUBLIC LIBRARY is an excellent and free source of a wide variety of books. A librarian will be happy to help you select books for your children. Allow your children to help choose their own books. Many libraries also have story times and other special activities.

Children also take pride in owning books and in hearing them read again and again. Include books as birthday and holiday gifts. Many fine books are now available in inexpensive paperback editions.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Letting children see you read tells them that reading is important. Let them see books, newspapers, and magazines around the house.

Tell them stories you remember from your childhood.

Give children a special place or shelf on which to keep their books.

When your children start school, praise their efforts at reading. Children's reading levels remain below their interest levels for several years, and you will want to continue reading to them. This is the time to begin sharing longer books, perhaps as part of a daily family reading time.

Public libraries throughout South Carolina are interested in helping you help your children become better readers. We encourage you to begin today **SHARE A BOOK WITH A CHILD.**

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SHARE A BOOK WITH A CHILD



**South Carolina
Public Libraries**

Did you know that children learn more during their first five years than at any other time? You, as a parent, are your children's first and most important teacher. There are many things you can do to help your children become good readers.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

Babies will learn sounds and words from songs and nursery rhymes. As your children grow take time to talk and listen to them.

SHARE PLACES AND EXPERIENCES WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

A supermarket, an escalator, a zoo, or a park can be both a great adventure and a learning experience for children.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN'S PLAY.

Play is children's work. As children play, they learn shapes, sizes, colors, and many other things.

READ TO YOUR CHILDREN REGULARLY

WHY READ?

Reading will help your children want to read. Wanting to read is an important part of learning to read well.

Reading says books are important. Holding your child in your lap and sharing a book together creates positive feelings about books. It can also be one of your best chances to share experiences with your children.

Books can widen your children's experiences.

Children love stories. To laugh at and with story characters and to enjoy beautiful pictures are experiences no child should miss.

WHEN SHOULD I BEGIN?

Many parents begin reading and showing pictures to children when they are still babies. The pleasures of being held, of hearing your voice, and of seeing colorful pictures create a warm feeling and stimulate children's senses of hearing and touch.

As your children grow, make reading a daily activity.

WHAT SHOULD I READ?

Begin by singing lullabies, nursery rhymes, and songs to your baby. Babies respond to rhythm, which builds listening skills.

Look for cloth books, books with textures and sturdy pages to introduce books to your children. Make books for them using pictures cut from magazines. Your voice, bright pictures, and the turning pages will help hold very young children's attention.

TODDLERS OF AGES 2-3 enjoy short, well-illustrated stories about animals or people like themselves. They like repetition, jingles, and large, colorful, clear pictures.

CHILDREN OF AGES 4-5 like simple make-believe, exaggeration, humor, and the sounds of new words. They like stories that explain how and why.

CHILDREN AGES 6 and OLDER enjoy longer stories with fewer pictures. Many enjoy having a book read to them by chapters. Their developing interests determine what type of books they enjoy.